

BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

73 TREMONT STREET, BOSTON 8, MASSACHUSETTS

November 21, 1958

Commissioner Leo J. Sullivan
Boston Police Department
154 Berkeley Street
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Commissioner Sullivan:

At the request of this Authority, conference was held in your office on May 1, 1958 with you, Mr. Hennessy, Superintendent of Police, Mr. Connolly, Counsel for the Police Department, Captain McArdle of Station 3, Mr. Simonian, Executive Director, Mr. John Conley, Counsel for this Authority, and myself.

The purpose of the conference was to discuss the possibility of additional police protection for the West End Project area in order to cope with the vandalism, burglary and other serious disorders which were expected to occur during the project development stage when the relocation of families and the demolition of vacated buildings would take place.

It was agreed at the conference that adequate police protection was a municipal responsibility. However, it was pointed out by the Police Department that it was the prevailing practice in this area to obtain paid police details to regulate the traffic and provide necessary safeguards for the protection of the public from hazards arising out of demolition activity. The Authority agreed to abide by this practice and to take steps necessary to receive the approval of the Federal officials in order to comply.

Counsel for the Police Department and counsel for the Authority were instructed to develop a satisfactory schedule for a paid police detail during the demolition stage. As a result of the determinations made by both counsels with the Chief of Development and Planning for the Authority, specifications were written into the Demolition Contract requiring a maximum paid police detail of eight police officers per day during the term of the Demolition Contract (800 days). The specifications read as follows:

Commissioner Leo J. Sullivan

- 2 -

November 21, 1958

"a. Care of Work. The Contractor shall provide a paid detail of Boston police officers, both day and night, including Saturday, Sunday and holidays, from time of award of Contract to final completion and acceptance which shall consist of four (4) Boston police officers on duty from 7:45 A. M. until 5:45 P. M. and two (2) Boston police officers on duty from 5:45 P. M. until 12:30 A. M. of the following day and two (2) Boston police officers on duty from 12:30 A. M. until 7:45 A. M. of the same day, and such other police officers as the Public Works Department of the City of Boston may deem necessary. Such officers shall wear regulation Boston Policemen uniforms and be subject to the control of the Police Commissioner and shall be paid by the Contractor at the prevailing rate of wages paid to regular police officers in the City of Boston. For all services furnished by Boston police officers on a paid detail, the Contractor shall make the checks payable to the Boston Police Commissioner who, in turn, will reimburse the Boston Police officers employed on said paid detail."

On April 23, 1958 the Authority made an eminent domain taking of the West End Project and as of that date has had title and ownership of the property. By nature of the ownership, the Authority became landlord of all the tenants in the area and has assumed all the obligations for the management and maintenance of the property while occupied.

On July 25, 1958, a Demolition Contract was awarded to the lowest bidder, J. J. Duane Company, and demolition of vacated buildings commenced. There have been innumerable incidents of vandalism, burglary and other disorders since that time, which have been reported to Station 3. Enclosed is a report of the vandalism which took place recently.

Since the Authority is obligated to maintain these properties in a habitable condition until tenants are relocated, the Authority has been compelled to spend thousands of dollars to maintain, repair and replace equipment because of vandalism and burglary. The Police Captain and other officers in charge of Station 3 are very courteous and cooperative, but the losses continue to occur. It is the judgment of our Authority that the regular police assigned to the area and the paid police detail would take this matter more seriously and be more vigilant if the seriousness of the situation and the importance of the problem were emphasized by a communication from Headquarters.

The Authority appreciates your cooperation and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph W. Lund
Chairman

Enc.
JWL:c

November 19, 1958

TO: Wallace B. Orpin, Chief of Development and Planning
AT: Central Office, 73 Tremont Street, Boston, Mass.
FROM: Albert Terban
AT: Site Office, 25 Blossom Street, Boston, Mass.
SUBJECT: Vandalism and Stealing

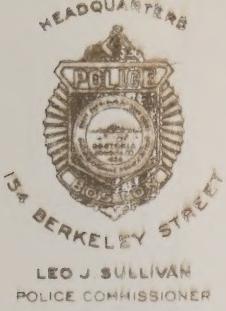
The following is a list of addresses given to Police Sergeant Maraghy of Station #3 at 11:35 a.m., November 17, 1958. These properties were subject to either vandalism or burglary which resulted in expensive maintenance costs to repair.

48 Spring Street, pipes and faucets stolen resulting in flooding.
154 Chambers Street, no water - someone cut water pipes, stole copper boiler.
8 Auburn Street, vandalism, ripped out electrical wires in cellar.
102 Leverett Street, vandalism, pipes broken, no water to tenant.
63 Allen Street, wires and controls to oil burner stolen.
17 Allen Street, half oil burner stolen.
15 Spring Street, stolen pipe resulting in ceiling falling because of water damage.
375 Charles Street, stolen radiators - firemen responded to emergency because escaping steam was reported as smoke.
60 Leverett Street, vandalism.
1 Auburn Street, wires cut off to oil burner, no heat to tenants.
52 Allen Street, no heat to tenants, blast tube, pump and gun stolen from oil burner.

These complaints initiated in approximately the last two weeks.

s/ Albert L. Terban
Albert L. Terban
Supervisor of Maintenance

ALT:adr



City of Boston
Police Department
Office of the Commissioner

November 24, 1958

Joseph W. Lund, Chairman
Boston Redevelopment Authority
73 Tremont Street
Boston 8, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Lund:

This acknowledges receipt of your letter of November 21st, concerning vandalism and burglary occurring at the site of the West End project, despite the assignment there of a paid police detail.

Please be advised that I have asked for a thorough investigation and a complete and prompt report to me in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Police Commissioner

LJS:O

RECEIVED

NOV 25 1958

BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY

